



Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee

Date: May 27, 2021

Time: 10-11 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/95214439556>

Meeting ID: 952 1443 9556

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Attendees: Clarissa Rowe, Chair (Arlington); Ali Carter (Arlington); Paul Fennelly (Arlington); George Parsons (Arlington); Heather Gill (Concord); Nancy Nelson (Concord); Beth Williams (Concord); Jennifer Curtin (Lincoln); BJ Dunn (NPS); Richard Canale, Vice Chair (Lexington); Bob Domnitz (Lincoln); Jeanne Krieger (Lexington); Sheila Page (Lexington); Connie Raphael (MassDOT); Derek Shooster (MassDOT)

Guests: Margaret Coppe (Lexington); Jane Herlacher (Lincoln resident); Beth Melofchik (Arlington); Jonathan Dwyer, Select Board Member (Lincoln); Patrice Todisco, Freedom's Way.

Minutes

1. Minutes of March 25 and April 22 meetings approved unanimously. Clarissa announced that towns will rotate taking meeting minutes. Concord will take minutes of next meeting, and then we will continue town-by-town alphabetically.
2. Funding updates from MassDOT: updates on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for National Scenic Byways
Derek Shooster presented to the committee on the upcoming funding opportunity for designated scenic byways via the FHWA. The FHWA is having monthly meetings with Derek, who is the state's Scenic Byway Coordinator.
The Battle Road Scenic Byway (BRSB) is eligible for funds out of a \$16 million national pool of funding. Derek is still getting guidance on how

and when to apply. States are eligible recipients, so MassDOT would apply on BRSB's behalf.

Derek said he needs shapefiles for the application, and Ali replied that they are in the All-American Road application we submitted last year. Any funding awarded through this grant needs to be programmed by September 30, 2024 and spent by September 30, 2028.

The Committee briefly discussed potential uses for this funding, and ideas such as technical assistance and updating our Corridor Management Plan were discussed, but nothing was voted on and decisions will not be made without further guidance from the FHWA. Maree Forbes of the National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF) also reached out to Derek about the BRSB participating in their promotional program, and Derek assured the committee that the grant funds could cover such an expense.

3. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Tourism, Economic Development, and Outreach (TEDO) report
Ali reported out that the TEDO subcommittee met with Maree Forbes of the NSBF about their promotional program. It cost \$1,000 to join the program and included a promotional booklet in pdf format for the BRSB as well as promotion on their website. Sheila and Beth were not supportive of investing in the program. Paul and Clarissa were impressed with the itineraries that the NSBF presented as part of their promotional program, there is no participation deadline and we declined to vote to expend \$1,000 to participate at this time.
- b. The Public Infrastructure and Land Use (PILU) committee has not yet convened a meeting.

Clarissa recommended that subcommittees meet in summer and bring three action items to the whole BRSB committee in September to make budgetary recommendations. We also need to review committee bylaws and to form an advisory group. Ali suggested requesting funding for technical assistance for recommendations on the composition of the advisory group, such as which groups or committees from each town should be represented.

Derek reported that MassDOT is accepting public comment on the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) currently. Nancy and Heather Gill expressed interest in joining the land use and public infrastructure subcommittee. Richard recommended having a Dept. of Public Works contact for each town and thinks planning an event to celebrate the All-American Road designation should be a short-term priority for the committee. BJ suggested that any such event should be held in late August during congressional recess.

4. Town/NPS/MassDOT Updates

- a. Lincoln: Currently doing a survey of residents about South Lincoln commercial districts.

- b. Concord: Town Meeting starts on June 13. There are two CPA projects currently underway: internal structural work at Wright-Locke Farm and the roof of the Masonic Lodge. Concord received a Mass Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) grant with Lexington to support tourism and recovery. The Town also applied for a MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces grant for bikeshare.
 - c. Lexington: Sarah Mattes and Margaret Coppe should be added to the TEDO meeting and member list. The Lexington Center Streetscape Project is beginning. The Farmer's Market is moving to the football practices fields on Worthen Road. There will be an official Visitor Center opening in the fall.
 - d. Arlington: The Town is in the middle of a very long Town Meeting session. The CPA budget has not come up yet, which includes proposals to fund projects at the Jason Russell House and the Foot of the Rocks. We applied for a Shared Streets and Spaces grant to update the parklet on Medford Street. A CPA-funded project for the Minuteman Bikeway will kick off later this year. The Local Rapid Response grant for Bikeway connections to Arlington Heights, East Lexington, and Bedford Center is holding a public meeting on June 8. The Arlington Housing Authority received a \$100,000 grant to do a placemaking project at Drake Village, just off Mass Ave and the Minuteman Bikeway in the Heights. The project is likely to connect with the path work on the Arlington Reservoir currently underway.
 - e. Freedom's Way: They are updating their website to be interactive. They have a Rev250 event planned.
 - f. NPS: Minute Man NHP, Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord are wrapping up their Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study. FY22 budget to be released tomorrow. BJ asked for the Park to be kept informed about signage issues from MassDOT and abutting communities.
 - g. MassDOT: Andrew Wilkins is looking for emails and setting up a SharePoint site for Rt. 2A comments.
2. Next meeting: September 23, 2021, at 10 a.m.